

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Sunrise Grill, 3830 Washington Rd. Martinez

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

Pres. Steven Nix
1st V.P. Glenn Sanders
2nd V.P. Howard Black
Sec. John T. Attaway
Treas. Stacey Plooster
Sgt. in Arms: Bryan Hoyt
and Joe Bert



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Volume 16, Number 11

THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Nov., 2016

Our Next Meeting is Thursday, Nov. 17 at 6:30 PM, Pizza Party

Fall Show, another sell-out with 63 tables sold

Club Meeting Calendar for 2016

Jan. 21	May 19	Sep. 15
Feb. 18	June 16	Oct. 20
Mar. 17	July 21	Nov. 17
Apr. 21	Aug. 18	Dec. 15

Fall Show, a virtual sell-out! Club Celebrates another Successful Year on Eve of Fall Show with Pizza Party

Bourse Chairman David Chism has reported that our fall show is another sell-out with 63 tables sold. As for our upcoming meeting, Thursday, Nov. 17, this is one that you don't want to miss. First of all, do not dine before your arrival because the dinner's on us. We will be holding another one of our famed Pizza Parties, courtesy of Pizza Hut with the club supplying the beverages, courtesy of our meeting site hosts, the Sunrise Grill. As part of the meeting agenda, President Steven Nix will ask Nominating Committee Chairman JC Williams to report on the current status of the nominations for club officers and Board of Directors for 2117. J.C. will ask members present if any would like to put forth nominations. The election of club officers will not take place until our Dec. 15 meeting. The new Executive Committee and Board will be installed at our January, 19 meeting in 2017.

For our program, noted numismatist **Dennis Schafluetzel**, an obsolete currency specialist from Chattanooga, TN will present a program highlighting some of the activities of the **Georgia Numismatic Association**. Dennis has won numerous prizes for his exhibits on obsolete currency, some of which that have included an HO gauge train track wending its way through the train pix on the bank notes displayed.

After the program, VP Glenn Sanders will conduct our regular monthly auction. **We still need members to help out at the welcoming desk at the show on Fri. & Sat. during the show hours from 9 AM to 5 PM and at the food counter from 11 AM thru 2:00 PM. Please volunteer and thanks!**

Collecting Beautiful US Coppers: Part Two: Half cents by Arno Safran



An 1800 Draped Bust half-cent, C-1, R2 graded VF-30
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details]

In the October, 2016 issue of our club newsletter the author asked whether the reader ever collected any of the large cents. This same question applies to the half-cent denomination which, like the large cent, was struck from 1793 thru 1857 albeit with many interruptions. These "little half-sisters"--as collector and 1/2¢ variety attributor Roger S. Cohen affectionately called them--were primarily coined to make change for the Latin American silver *Real* valued at 12½¢ although a number of items such as books sold in America during the first half of the 19th Century were priced in half-cents, (e.g., 2½¢). In Great Britain, the use of fractional copper coinage had been common during the late 18th and 19th centuries where the copper half-penny and farthing (¼ of a penny) were produced. The half cent was closer to a farthing in size, around 23.5 mm in diameter.



An 1835 Classic Head half-cent, C-1, R1 graded MS-63 by NGC
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details]

The more affordable 1/2¢ design-types are among the Draped Bust, (1800-08), the Classic Head (1809-36) and the Coronet (1849-57). The first three types, the 1793, Liberty Cap facing left, the 1794 Liberty Cap large-bust and the 1795-97 small-bust are all quite scarce to rare and fairly expensive.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting Beautiful US Coppers:

Part Two: Half cents

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



An 1850 Coronet (Mature Head) 1/2¢, C-1, R2 grading AU-55
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details]

All three of the foregoing half-cent types displayed in this article have decent color, nice surfaces and are free of corrosion. Depending on one's discretionary income for collecting, the Draped Bust type (*shown atop page 1, column 2*) is moderately priced thru VF-30, the Classic Head, (*appearing near the bottom of the same column*) thru XF-40 and the Coronet-Braided Hair, *AKA Mature Head type* shown directly above is moderately priced thru AU-50. The latest **Red Book** as well as PCGS's *On Line Coin Facts* shows the current retail prices corresponding to which dates are common and which are not.

Regarding the earlier type half-cents, a collector with a good eye for quality can locate problem-free eye appealing half-cents in as low a grade as VG-8 or Fine-12 although these specimens tend to be quite elusive. Despite their wear, such coins will exhibit natural chocolate-brown color, smooth surfaces with a minimum of distracting marks such as rim-nicks, scrapes or cuts. Directly below is one such example.

The Three Earlier US Half-Cent Types



A 1795 Liberty Cap Half Cent, C-1, R2 grading VG-8
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details]

Of the three early US type half-cents issue from 1793 thru 1797, the 1795 half-cent graded VG-8 shown above is perhaps the most affordable. The die variety, which is also fairly common, shows the remnants of a pole descending from bust to the right of Miss Liberty's neck (*that can be seen more clearly if the images are sufficiently enlarged*). This particular specimen was acquired off the internet back in 1995 when most US dealers had not yet begun imaging their coins. The verbal description however was accurate enough describing the coin as "original", having considerable wear but problem-free for the grade. Considering that the date represented a 200 year old coin at the time of purchase, the \$450 price tag did not seem all that out of line at the time. Today, it is far more expensive. It would be nice to be able to obtain higher grade examples of our early US coinage but there are simply not enough survivors grading VF thru XF to satisfy the increasing number of serious collectors who like collecting early US copper coins.



A 1794 Liberty Cap 1/2¢ Gallery Mint Replica
Showing large Head facing right one year type
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details]

In 1993, the Gallery Mint out of Eureka Springs, AK began striking replicas of our early US coin types beginning with the large cent. The chief engraver was Ron Landis who made sure the word *COPY* appeared either on the obverse or reverse of every coin-type he and his staff produced. The company had a screw press built along the same specifications of the one used at the first US Mint in Philadelphia in 1793. Landis also made sure that the metal content whether copper, silver or gold would be representative of the exact combination of alloys used by the original Philadelphia Mint staff. The charge for each US type coin replica represented a tiny fraction of what an authentic US rarity would cost. The 1794 half-cent replicas were issued at \$12.00 per coin. What you see directly above and below are Gem mint-state replicas of the 1794 and 1793 half-cents struck by the Gallery Mint.



A 1793 Liberty Cap facing left 1/2¢ Gallery Mint Replica
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details]

With a reported mintage of just 35,344 half-cents in 1793, very few collectors are likely to own a real specimen since one grading About Good 3 is listed at \$1,850 in the 2017 *Red Book*. The same source lists an AU-50 at \$30,000. During the early to mid 1990s, the Gallery Mint struck a limited number of replicas like the one shown directly above pricing them at just \$8.00. As one can see the coin is a gorgeous gem with a superb engraving that comes close to the original. In 2006 the GMM regrettably closed its operations destroying most of the original dies so it is possible that the prices for these replicas may rise in future years. The foregoing said, acquiring a naturally toned and problem-free authentic common date half-cent grading from VF-30 to XF-45 is still currently both affordable and probably a better long term investment, a memento of beauty forever.



A Chocolate-brown 1825 Classic Head 1/2¢ C-2, R1 grading XF-40
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details]

Farmers and Merchants Bank, Washington, D. C.

Obsolete Notes by Ron Thompson



A Farmer Merchant's Bank \$1.00 Banknote
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details]

Since it is the election season a bit of nostalgia from the period before/during the Civil War in our nation's capital might be in order, if only to serve as a distraction. As collectors of obsolete currency are aware there seems to be Farmers and Merchant Banks in all states. D. C. was no different. There were two such banks from the period of 1851 to 1863 per James A. Haxby in his authoritative *United States Obsolete Bank Notes 1782-1866* published in 1988. The first, listed as DC-95 (circa 1852) was a fraudulent, possibly non-existent bank, whose plates were modified to issue notes of another fraudulent, possibly non-existent bank, the Metropolitan Bank listed as DC-295 (1852 to circa 1855). There are surviving \$1, \$2, and \$3 notes from DC-95. The Metropolitan Bank has surviving \$1, \$2, \$3 and \$5 notes.

The other Farmers and Merchant Bank, DC-235 (1851 to 1863), was real, but like many banks of the era, failed. As a collector of obsolete currency, I am amazed at the amount of currency issued in 1862 and 1863 and the number of banks that failed during that period. I collected this bank because I was initially attracted to the unusual denominations they issued. When they opened their doors, they issued \$1 (see example) and \$2 notes that were payable in "Virginia" money. Virginia at the time had a number of established banks with branches throughout Virginia that were soundly financed and respected. One of those banks was the Farmers Bank of Virginia (Haxby VA-175). The reference to "Virginia" money was an attempt by the bank to attract local folks by saying your money is as safe as "Virginia" money and if you want your money back we will refund it in "Virginia" money. The bank also issued a year later, in 1852, \$1, \$2, \$3, \$5, \$10, and \$20 notes (see examples of \$1 and \$2 notes) without the reference to "Virginia" money



A Farmer Merchant's Bank \$1.25 Banknote
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details.]

Presumably the coinage in circulation and the issued bank notes of 1851 and 1852 were sufficient to handle normal banking functions for ten years until the Civil War. With the Civil War, however, people in DC really didn't want money that was payable in the enemy's "Virginia" money so a new series of currency was developed. In addition, coins were hoarded so scrip (currency under \$1) was needed to fill the need for small purchases. As a result, the bank issued in 1862 scrip of 25¢ and 50¢ and notes of \$1 (2 varieties), \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2 (2 varieties), \$3 (2 varieties).



A Farmer Merchant's Bank \$1.50 Banknote
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen]

I have provided examples of the scrip and the odd denominations \$1.25, \$1.50 and \$1.75. For a complete collection, there are 17 bank notes and 2 scrip notes.



A Farmer Merchant's Bank \$1.75 Banknote
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details.]



A Farmer Merchant's Bank \$2.00 Banknote shown above the Farmer Merchant's Bank 25c and 50c scrip (reduced in size)
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details.]

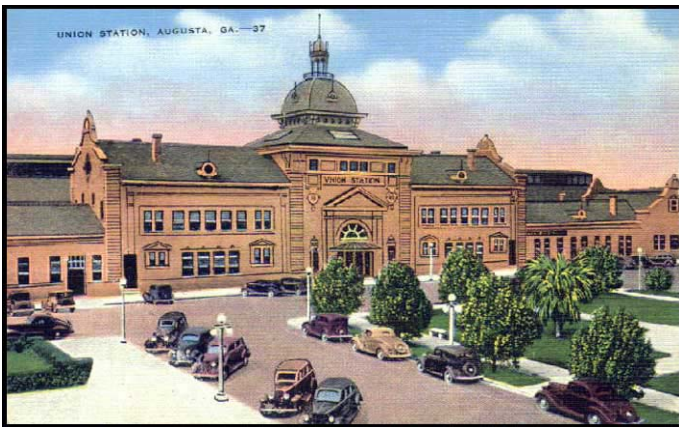
Thanks, Ron for another interesting article on obsolete currency. Ed.

2016 Club Medallions Have Arrived



**The 2016 ACC Medallion featuring the Union RR Station Depot
Struck in Antique Bronze**
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details]

The latest club medallion was based on the postcard representation of the old Augusta Union Station shown below.



**A postcard picture from 1937 portraying the Union Station in the
1930s from which the medallion was coined**

The 2016 medallions were struck in three alloys as in previous years, copper, (antique bronze, *(shown atop the page)* and silver wash. The number of medallions was reduced to just 25 for each alloy this year, so if you wish to add a complete set of 2016 pieces to your club medallion collection you better act soon since one does not know which alloy will be sold out first. They are priced at \$12.00 each, the club's cost.



**Shelby Plooster in front of her 1st place exhibit at the SCNA Show
She was also awarded SCNA YN Numismatist of the year
Congratulations, Shelby!**
[Enlarge photo to view award details more clearly.]

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC. MINUTES OF MEETING October 20, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Sunrise Grill by President, Steve Nix, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Steve!!! We had 45 members present and 2 guests.

Secretary's Report:

The September 15, 2016 minutes was not read. A copy is kept on file.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report read by Stacey Plooster was read and approved. We have \$10,146.99 deposited in the checking account. Revenue was from the 50/50 drawing. Expenses were for our upcoming Fall Show and Coin Tokens.

Prize Winners:

Geri Putman won a 2016 Silver Eagle. Rusty Cumberledge won a 1987 Constitution Silver Dollar (UNC). Winner of the 50/50 raffle was Geri Putman (\$50.00).

Fall Coin Show November 18th (Friday) and November 19th (Saturday) 2016:

David Chism – Bourse Chairman. The Fall Coin Show will be held at the Columbia County Exhibition Center located at the Grovetown Wal-Mart at Exit 190. David Chism reported that 47 tables have been sold. President Steve Nix and David Chism met to go over show items. We are planning to have an YN Program at the show which will start at 1:00 PM on Saturday, Nov. 19 of the show. We still need help to man the front desk, concession stand. Members are urged to sign up to help at the show. Members were also asked to bake cookies and cakes to sell at the concession stand. Post cards as well as small business cards furnished by Sammy Luckey's printing company in Thomson have already been sent out.

Show & Tell:

Bryan Hoyt displayed coin rings made from half dollars. Another member displayed a counterfeit Lafayette Dollar. Steve Nix displayed two 2016 Presidential Coin Chronicle Set commemorating J.F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan.

2016 Augusta Coin Club Medallion:

The winner of our 2016 club medallion was the Old Augusta Union Station located between 8th and 9th Streets, South of Walker Street, Augusta, Georgia. They were displayed at the September meeting and again at the October meeting! A total of only 75 medallions were struck this year, 25 in Antique Bronze, 25 in copper and 25 in silver wash. They are priced at \$12.00 each and will be displayed for sale at our upcoming show,

The Program:

Wayne Damron gave a brief presentation on Counterfeit Detection. Wayne went over three of the most counterfeited Lincoln cents: the 1909-S VBD, the 1914-D and the 1955 Double die. Not only did Wayne give his excellent program he also donated Bill Fivaz's *Counterfeit Detection Guide Book* to our club.

(Secretary Attaway's Minutes continues on page 5, column 1)

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC. MINUTES OF MEETING October 20, 2016

(Continued from previous page)

Old Business:

We had 2 juniors draw for the junior box. Our club made a \$300.00 donation to the Augusta Library and Columbia County Library.

A reminder that since our newsletter is no longer being mailed out, some hard copies will be made available at our monthly meetings. For those who do use e-mail, please make sure we have your correct email address.

New Business:

At the November meeting we will have a pizza party!! Election of 2016 Officers of the Augusta Coin Club will be coming up in December. Anyone that wants to serve, please contact J.C. Williams, the chairman of the Nominating Committee. The club is looking over the forms to fill out in order to get free membership in the ANA, before October 30, 2016.

Area Shows:

Glenn Sanders reported on the upcoming area shows.

South Carolina State Show, Greenville, SC

October 27-30, 2016

Chattanooga, Tennessee

November 4-6, 2016

Baltimore, Maryland

November 4-6, 2016

Columbia, South Carolina

November 5, 2016

Knoxville, Tennessee (Sevierville)

November 12-13, 2016

The Auction:

Glenn Sanders also conducted the auction (15 lots). Shelby Plooster, Connie Clayton and Howard Black delivered the goods as the auction was carried on thereby speeding up the proceedings. The Bids recorder was David Chism

*Respectively Submitted,
John Thomas Attaway*

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AUGUSTA COIN CLUB 2016 FALL SHOW

GOLD ★ SILVER ★ CURRENCY ★ TOKENS ★ MEDALS
EXONUMIA ★ JEWELRY ★ COLLECTIBLES ★ SUPPLIES

**FREE
ADMISSION
FREE PARKING
PUBLIC INVITED**

**FRIDAY, NOV. 18TH &
SATURDAY, NOV. 19TH
9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

COLUMBIA COUNTY EXHIBITION CENTER
212 Partnership Drive – Grovetown, Georgia
Exit 190 on I-20, go south one block,
turn left and drive straight into Exhibition Center.

RAFFLE DRAWING
Saturday at 4:00 p.m.
Purchase tickets from Club
Members or at Registration.

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